

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 02105 290912Z

14

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAB-01

SAM-01 IO-13 OMB-01 /073 W

----- 061340

R 290815Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5240

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: KU PINT

SUBJ: INTERIOR MINISTER WARNING TO NON-KUWAITI AGITATORS

REF: KUWAIT 1561

1. INTERIOR MINISTER SHAIKH SAID SPOKE TO PRESS APRIL 27 AND ISSUED STERN WARNING TO CERTAIN NON-KUWAITI ELEMENTS WHO, HE CLAIMED, HAD BEEN STIRRING UP TROUBLE LATELY IN KUWAIT. MINISTER REFERRED TO SEVERAL INCIDENTS AT KUWAIT UNIVERSITY AS HAVING HEIGHTENED KUWAITI CONCERN THAT OUTSIDERS ARE INTENT ON USING KUWAITI TURF FOR ACTIVITIES UNFRIENDLY BOTH TO KUWAIT AND SOME OF HER NEIGHBORS (HE MEANT SYRIA).

2. FIRST WAS PROTEST AGAINST SYRIAN POLICY IN LEBANON ORGANIZED IN FORM OF A SIT-IN AT SYRIAN CULTURAL EXHIBITION AT UNIVERSITY

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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 02105 290912Z

APRIL 24. DEMONSTRATORS REPORTEDLY WERE ALL PALESTINIANS, NINE

OF WHOM HAVE NOW BEEN ASKED TO APPEAR BEFORE UNIVERSITY DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE. WE UNDERSTAND SYRIAN EMBASSY HAS LODGED OFFICIAL PROTEST AT THIS BIT OF EXCESS ZEAL. LEAFLETS ATTACKING THE GOK IN FAIRLY VILE TERMS HAVE ALSO APPEARED AROUND THE UNIVERSITY WITHIN PAST TWO WEEKS. DISCRIMINATION ASPECTS OF KUWAITI INTERNAL POLICY ARE APPARENTLY THE FOCUS. THESE WERE PUT OUT IN NAME OF ARAB TEACHERS' FEDERATION (NO SUCH ORGANIZATION EXISTS IN KUWAIT, BUT WE RECALL THERE IS AN ARAB LEAGUE-RELATED GROUP OF THIS NAME IN CAIRO). SKEPTICS SUGGEST THAT THE LEAFLETS WERE FALSELY ATTRIBUTED TO THIS GROUP, WITH TWO MOST POPULARLY SUGGESTED VILLAINS BEING IRAQIS OR SPLINTER PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATION. AN ANTI-PALESTINIAN PUBLIC MOOD LINGERS ON HERE IN THE WAKE OF A FEW UGLY INCIDENTS ATTENDANT TO THE OTHERWISE ORDERLY MARCH 30 PALESTINIAN "YOUM AL-ARD" DAY CELEBRATION AT THE UNIVERSITY (REFTEL). A COUPLE OF KUWAITI FLAGS APPARENTLY GOT BURNED LATE THAT AFTERNOON BY PALESTINIAN STUDENT ACTIVISTS WHO THOUGHT THE KUWAITI SPIRIT LAGGING. ABOVE-DESCRIBED SERIES OF EVENTS HAS NOW CAUSED A PREDICTABLE BACKLASH, WITH MODERATE KUWAITI PAPERS BECOMING EDITORIALY CRITICAL WITHIN PAST WEEK OF THE UNGRATEFUL NON-KUWAITI RESIDENT WHO TAKES ADVANTAGE OF KUWAIT'S DEMOCRACY AND LIBERALISM. SHAIKH SAID'S NEWS CONFERENCE AMOUNTS TO GOK ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THESE CRITICISMS AND AN AFFIRMATION THAT IT IS TIME TO CALL A HALT. VERY THINLY VEILED THREATS AT DEPORTATION WERE INCLUDED IN SA'D'S REMARKS, WHILE HE AT SAME TIME CAUTIONED THAT THESE INCIDENTS DID NOT REPRESENT ANYTHING CRITICAL. NO WEAPONS HAD BEEN INVOLVED OR FOUND, AND GOK IS APPARENTLY GOING TO PROCEED SLOWLY IN MAKING ARRESTS AND OTHERWISE PUTTING LID BACK ON.

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